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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has submitted a public information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995: *Clearance Request for NEA Annual Arts Benchmarking Survey*. Copies of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by visiting www.Reginfo.gov.

Comments should be sent to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the National Endowment for the Arts, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 202/395-7316, within 30 days from the date of this publication in the Federal Register.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Agency: National Endowment for the Arts

Title: Annual Arts Benchmarking Survey

OMB Number: New

Frequency: Annually, in years the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts is not conducted

Affected Public: American adults

Estimated Number of Respondents: 36,000

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 4.0 minutes

Total Burden Hours: 2,000 hours

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs: 0

Total Annual Costs (Operating/Maintaining Systems or Purchasing Services):

0

Description: This request is for clearance to conduct the 2015 and 2016 Annual Arts Benchmarking Surveys (AABS). These surveys will be conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau as a supplement to the Bureau of Labor Statistic's Current Population Survey. The AABS will be conducted in February 2015 and February 2016 and are expected to be conducted annually thereafter in years that the National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA) is not conducted. One of the strengths of the AABS surveys is that they will both complement and supplement the information collected in the SPPA. The SPPA is the field's premiere repeated cross-sectional survey of individual attendance and involvement in arts and cultural activity, and is conducted approximately every five years. The AABS questionnaires are much shorter than the SPPA, consisting of 10 to 12 questions that will be used to track arts participation over time. As with the SPPA, the AABS data will be circulated to interested researchers and will be the basis for a range of NEA reports and independent research publications. Reports on these data will be made publicly available on the NEA's website. The AABS will provide annual primary knowledge on the extent and nature of participation in the arts in the United States. These data will also be used by the NEA as a contextual measure for one of the strategic goals identified in its FY 2014 – FY 2018 strategic plan.

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